

The PSC Pulse

A NEW FACE AND A FEW CHANGES AT THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



In the summer of 2021, **Gov. Brian Kemp** made two appointments directly affecting the Public Service Commission. First, he appointed PSC Chairman **Chuck Eaton** to a judicial seat on the Fulton County Superior Court. Then, he appointed businessman **Fitz Johnson** to replace Eaton's seat on the PSC.



Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore**, the new Chair of the PSC

With Eaton's Chairman seat open, the PSC Commissioners unanimously selected Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** to serve as chair. Chairman Pridemore has already presided over hearings for Atlanta Gas Light's Integrated Capacity and Delivery Plan, Georgia Power Company's Petition to adjust rates, a VCM hearing and several administrative hearings.

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COMMISSIONER McDONALD OPENS SEARUC IN SONG

As has become tradition at the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners annual conferences, Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** helped to open the event with a song.

On Oct. 4, at the SEARUC conference in Kingsport, Tenn., McDonald gave his rendering of the Lee Greenwood anthem “God Bless the USA.”

Over the years, McDonald has lent his voice at countless political functions, rallies and civic events across the State of Georgia.



*Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** sings at SEARUC*



Gov. Kemp swears in Former Commissioner **Chuck Eaton** as a Fulton County Superior Court Judge.

Research. Commissioner Pridemore is also on the Board of the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities. In 2020, she was appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy and NARUC Natural Gas Partnership, designed to facilitate the exchange of information on emerging regulatory and technological solutions.

Commissioner Johnson is serving his first political post. A businessman, attorney, and 21-year veteran retired U.S. Army Officer, Commissioner Johnson has vast experience in building and leading companies and non-profits, driving growth and producing positive results. Among his business accomplishments was serving as owner/CEO of Eagle Group International, a \$175 million contracting firm with 1,700 employees in 35 states and seven foreign countries.

An active member in his community, Commissioner Johnson serves on several boards, including Kennesaw State University Foundation Board of Trustees, the Cumberland Counseling Center, the Wellstar Health System Board of Trustees, and as a Commissioner on the State Charter Schools Commission. He’s an active member of his local Chamber of Commerce, and Church.

Commissioner Johnson was a college wrestler at The Citadel and spent 15 years as an assistant wrestling coach, including two with his alma mater. He was recently inducted into the Georgia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Chairman Pridemore previously served as PSC Telecommunications Committee Chair. She joined the Commission in 2018 and won statewide election to serve through 2024. She is a businesswoman with a background in technology, consulting and workforce development. Previously, Chairman Pridemore served as the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development.

In addition to her duties with the Commission, she serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as Vice Chair of Pipeline Safety and the NARUC Subcommittee on Education and



*New PSC Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** is sworn in by **Gov. Brian Kemp**.*

BUSY AUTUMN AT THE PSC INCLUDES GEORGIA POWER, ATLANTA GAS LIGHT HEARINGS

In November, Commissioners approved a stipulated agreement between staff and Georgia Power for a slight rate adjustment to help recoup Vogtle construction costs. The rate adjustment did not include cost overruns and was strictly related to costs previously deemed “prudent” by the Commission. The commission also approved a 10-year capacity plan for Atlanta Gas Light.



Georgia Power requested a \$370 million rate adjustment to be enacted once the new Vogtle Unit 3 is up and running, now estimated to be the middle of 2022. An agreement between the Public Service Commission and Georgia Power reduced that to a \$300 million adjustment.

The PSC had two goals for its agreement with Georgia Power:

- To make sure the new nuclear reactor is working well when it goes into service
- To get real and reliable performance requirements to make sure the reactor is performing up to the standards justifying the cost to ratepayers

Stipulated in the agreement is a provision that says the PSC has the ability to take back some of the extra money that was approved if the reactor is not performing up to specific standards.

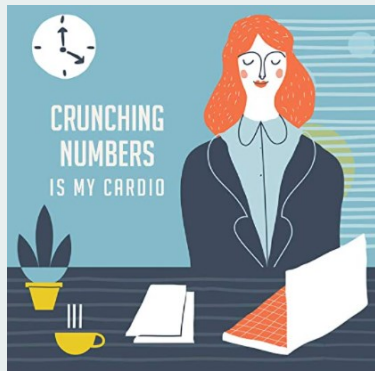
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT INTEGRATED CAPACITY AND DELIVERY PLAN

Also this fall, the PSC and Atlanta Gas Light entered a stipulated agreement on long-term planning for natural gas needs of Georgians over the next 10 years.

In 2019, the Commission saw the need for better long-term planning. Commissioners authorized staff and Atlanta Gas Light to explore a 10-year plan that would be reviewed and updated by the Commission every three years. In October, the Commission approved the first plan. Commissioners hope this will allow the PSC to have better oversight into capacity issues as well as rate issues for natural gas in the coming years.



Commissioners listen to information from staff and Atlanta Gas Light experts on the Integrated Capacity and Delivery Plan.



PEOPLESOFT IMPLEMENTATION ROLLS OUT AS SCHEDULED

The PSC Fiscal Unit is delighted to announce the conversion to Peoplesoft Financials, the new accounting system that went live on October 1, 2021. This was a complex project and with the leadership of PSC Accountant **Jane Stroeva**, the Fiscal Office staff and the implementation team of the State Accounting Office (SAO), it rolled out as scheduled. This implementation will benefit the Commission's compliance with requirements set by SAO and the Department of Audits and Accounts as well as the Transparency in Governmental Reporting Act (TIGA).

Employees who file for expense reimbursement will also now have the option of direct deposit since Fiscal has transitioned to electronic expense reimbursement workflow. Staff can contact Jane should they have questions or need help setting this up. For now, expense reporting procedures have not changed.

FORMER COMMISSIONER DAVID BURGESS IS HONORED WITH PICTURE IN PSC HALL OF FAME

David Burgess, the first African American to serve as a PSC Commissioner, was honored in a picture hanging ceremony outside the Commission hearing room.

The Commission recently adopted rules for portraits that will be hung in the hall and will serve as the PSC Hall of Honor.



Former Commissioner **David Burgess** gives an acceptance speech while long-time friend Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** listens.

Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** has long wanted to honor his friend Burgess with a portrait at the PSC. McDonald mentioned Burgess' years of service on staff, then as an elected Commissioner.

"Earlier this year, Commissioner McDonald brought the idea of honoring Commissioner Burgess' service to Georgia to the PSC," said Commission Chairman **Tricia**

Pridemore. "Unfortunately, the idea was delayed because of the pandemic. I'm thrilled to see this ceremony is finally able to happen."

Gov. Roy Barnes appointed David Burgess to the Commission in April 1999. No African American had previously served as a Commissioner. In November 2000, he won election statewide to serve a full six-year term.

Burgess graduated from Georgia Tech in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Burgess was a member of the PSC staff for 17 years. Burgess began as a public utilities engineer, rose through the ranks in six years to become the Commission's Director of Rates and Tariffs, and served as the Director of the Commission's Telecommunications Unit. He effectively resolved various electric, gas and telephone issues during his tenure at the Commission. He also served as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners' Subcommittees on Communications and Finance and Technology.



From left to right, Commissioners **Fitz Johnson**, **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald**, **Tricia Pridemore**, former Commissioner **David Burgess**, Commissioner **Tim Echols** and former Commissioner **Stan Wise**.

FORMER COMMISSIONER BOBBY ROWAN DIES

Former PSC Commissioner **Bobby Rowan** died on Aug. 10 at 85 years old.

Rowan began his political career at age 27, winning a seat in the Georgia State Senate in 1962. As a Senator, he was known for the ability to ride the middle of difficult debates through intelligence and humor. In 1972, he lost a bid for Governor, which put politics on hold for a few years.

In 1985, after realizing his best asset was his ability to talk, Rowan ran for and was elected to the Public Service Commission. He served for six years, retiring from politics and working as a consultant and lobbyist.

A love of travel led him to build a collaboration between Georgia poultry producers and the Cuban government, which allowed him to visit Cuba multiple times. He also traveled to Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Trinidad, Jamaica, Canada, Costa Rica, China and Hawaii.

Rowan is survived by his two children Edward (Laura) Rowan and Ferris (Adeeb) Fakhoury; eight grandchildren: Jacob, Caleb, Amelia, Seth, Andrew, Sofia, Drake and Emma; one great-grandchild who carries his name, Emmanuel Robert Murphy; and four siblings: Reba Johnson, Joyce Mathis, Diana Bigler, and Randy Rowan; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



CHAIRMAN PRIDEMORE MEETS WITH MEAG

Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** gave an update on the PSC and activities from the NARUC Annual Meeting to the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia's at its annual meeting.

She presented a Louisville Slugger bat commemorating the World Series Champion Atlanta Braves to new MEAG Chairman Steve "Thunder" Tumlin, Mayor of Marietta.

ALL ELECTRIC PICKUP



PSC Vice Chairman and electric vehicle guru **Tim Echols** was on hand earlier this year when an all-electric Rivian pickup truck was on display in front of the Capitol.

Rivian had an IPO in November that brought the company's stock market value to \$100 billion.

PSC REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL HEAT MEETING



Members of PSC Consumer Affairs attended the HEAT annual meeting.

The Heating Energy Assistance Team started in the 1970s to combat the energy crisis. It still works today as a partnership between citizens, businesses and public agencies, including the

Public Service Commission to provide help on energy bills to the less fortunate.

Consumer Affairs representatives **Stephanie Billups** and **Lisa Jensen**, and Consumer Affairs manager **Monique Andrews** represented the PSC at the meeting. Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** provided a welcoming address via video.

REECE McALISTER PROMOTED TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After 24 years as the Georgia Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary, you could say **Reece McAlister** knows his way around the Commission.

Commissioners past and present, staffers, intervenors, expert witnesses and just about everyone with a connection to the PSC has met Reece in one capacity or another. He's known for his meticulous work ethic, his calm demeanor and his ability to poke fun at those around him ... especially himself.

After a degree in criminal justice at North Georgia College, Reece shipped out to Vilsek, Germany, where he was stationed in the Army. He served as a platoon leader, a college instructor and the Military Police Station Commander.

Back in the States, Reece worked for a few years as security head of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and as a paralegal before accepting a job with the PSC in 1997.

In a tweak to the PSC organizational chart, Reece will head the administrative side of the PSC including Operation Support, Human Resources, Fiscal and Consumer Affairs. Utilities Director Tom Bond will head Facilities Protection, Natural Gas, Electric, legal and renewables.



SALLIE TANNER PROMOTED TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

As an update to the most recent PSC newsletter, **Sallie Tanner** has been promoted again.

This summer, Sallie was promoted to Human Resources Director. But when **Reece McAllister** was named the new Executive Director, Sallie said she couldn't help but apply for his old position. It was a job she had wanted since coming to the PSC 20 years ago.



Sallie's office has now moved behind the familiar window on the first floor where she will accept incoming filings, keep dockets up to date, co-sign

Commission orders and other important functions that keeps the Commission humming.

Previously, Sallie worked as executive assistant to Commissioners **Stan Wise** and **Tricia Pridemore**.

MAX STROEV PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS SUPPORT

For more than 30 years, **Max Stroev** has worked in the architecture, design and implementation of IT infrastructure. In November, he was put in charge of the PSC's IT department as Director of Operations Support.

Whether it's wi-fi or Windows, cyber security or cyber meetings, Max is the PSC's go-to guy for technological needs.



Max began at the PSC in 2017 after working in the private sector here in the Atlanta Metro area and in his native Moscow. He's been designing computer network systems since 1990.

When the Commission needed to upgrade its hearing room for hybrid online and in-person meetings, Max was instrumental in the process.

He holds a civil engineering degree from Moscow State University and a dual bachelor's degree in business administration and computer information systems from Georgia State University.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



5 YEARS

Jack Hewitt

10 YEARS

**Blair Fink
Irma Ormeno
Erica Wilson**

20 YEARS

Jason Smith

25 YEARS

**Michelle Thebert
Winifred Gaines
(26 years)**

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

After starting at the Public Service Commission in 1999, **Pat Welcome** has retired.

In the Executive Secretary's Office, Pat was a fixture for 22 years. Former Executive Secretary **Reece McAlister** said she "had the



perfect name for her job and her personality."

She always welcomed those who came to her

window on the first floor with a smile, and often welcomed co-workers with a hug.

In her retirement, she will continue her knitting and crafts. Pat will enjoy the company of her husband, son, grandson and two granddaughters.

The extended PSC family may have a future All Star coming up the football circuit.

Terry Pritchett's grandson, Cooper Rice, started playing football this year for the Acworth Parks and Recreation 10-year-old team.

At 5-feet, 2-inches tall and a solid 165 pounds, Cooper plays center and linebacker.

The team made the first round of the playoffs and travelled to Chattanooga.



Michelle Thebert's daughter Charley dances at the Southern Ballet Theater. She will perform as the Rat King (and other characters) in The Nutcracker at The Aurora Theater Dec. 16-19.

Monique Andrews' goddaughter, Jannaugia Anthony, was a part of the Georgia Lactation Campaign 2020 and won a grant from Johnson & Johnson.

She also had a poster featuring the baby in the Capitol last year and was part of the Georgia lactation program for the state.

The Milk Mouth Project is on Facebook and the Johnson & Johnson Grant will go towards a mobile van that will make stops to teach women and their babies how to latch properly.



COMMISSION CALENDAR

November 2021

11/15 Docket # 29849 Hearing
11/16 Committee Meetings
11/18 Administrative Affairs
11/25 – 11/26 Thanksgiving

December 2021

12/2 Committee Meetings
12/7 Administrative Session
12/16 Committee Meetings
12/21 Administrative Session
12/23 – 12/24 Christmas
12/30 Committee Meetings

January 2022

1/4 Administrative Session
1/13 Committee Meetings
1/18 Administrative Session
1/18 Docket #29849 Hearing
1/27 Committee Meetings

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



Thurs. & Fri, Nov. 25 & 26



Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 23 & 24



Jan. 1, 2022

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COMMISSIONERS

Tricia Pridemore, Chairman
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair
Fitz Johnson
Lauren "Bubba" McDonald
Jason Shaw

The Public Information Office publishes The PSC Pulse for the Georgia Public Service Commission. Information for The PSC Pulse should be sent to the attention of **Tom Krause, Public Information Officer** or **Lynn Page, Newsletter Editor**.

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Executive Secretary: Sallie Tanner